



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS

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Property Tax
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Tax Fraud Investigations
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Motor Vehicle Division Employee Arraigned on 18 Counts of Embezzlement, Other Charges

Albuquerque – On January 8, 2007, Rita I. Cordova, of Albuquerque, was arraigned before Second Judicial District Court Judge Ernesto J. Romero on embezzlement and other charges. Cordova, a former New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division employee, was indicted December 15, 2006 by the Grand Jury of the Second Judicial District Court in Bernalillo County on 18 criminal charges. Cordova waived formal reading of the indictment and pleaded “not guilty” to the charges. Judge Romero released Cordova on her own recognizance and ordered her to appear for processing within two weeks. A trial date has not yet been set.

Cordova is charged with two third degree and six fourth degree felony counts of embezzlement as well as eight counts of failure to comply with specific requirements to deposit state monies – all fourth degree felonies. Cordova is also charged with one count of larceny over \$100 but no more than \$250, and one count of tampering with evidence.

Cordova is alleged to have embezzled over \$16,000 in currency between February 27, 2006 and March 10, 2006 from the Albuquerque Motor Vehicle Division field office where she was employed.

If convicted on all charges, Cordova faces imprisonment of up to 28 years.

The case was a result of an investigation by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department’s Tax Fraud Investigations Division. In addition to tax fraud investigations, the Division conducts internal investigations through its Internal Investigations Bureau.

To report internal fraud, waste and abuse within the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, call the Internal Investigations hotline at 1-866-750-4833. To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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